Liability Credited into DPEA

1731. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after 1991-92 any fresh liability for credit into DPEA has been worked out;

(b) if so, the name of the companies involved, product involved and the amount worked out;

(c) whether this progress is satisfactory and if not, what steps have been taken by the Government to expedite the determination of liabilities in the pending cases; and

(d) by when would each liability is likely to be determined?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The entire question of the quantum of liabilities is being reviewed by a three member committee headed by a High Court Judge.

Drugs excluded from price control

1732. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ethambutol, Pyrazinamide, Chloramphenicol, Vitamin B6, Tunidazole, Polymixin B Sulphate, Triprolidine etc. have been excluded from price control;

(b) what are the basis of each and what was the turn over and market share of each during 1989-90;

(c) whether it is a fact that Norfloxacin; Ciprofloxacin, Phenylbutazone, Mafanamic Acid; Chlorpromazine, Spirnolactone, Sulbutamol, Ibuprofen, Trimethoprim and Sulphamethoxazone etc. have all been wrongly included;

(d) what are the basic of each for inclusion;

(e) the reasons for such omissions and commissions and the people responsible for such a state of affairs; and

(f) whether Government have received any representation against such anomalies and if so, the names of the drug involved, date of receipt of the complaint and action taken on each of the complaint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e) List of drugs kept under price control has been prepared on the basis of criteria laid down in the Modifications in the Drug Policy 1986" by applying it across the board to the data available with Government and as such to that extent there are no acts of omission and commissions.

(f) Certain representations have been received and the process of verification of points raised therein has been started.

Fluctuation in the prices of essential drugs

1733. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of fluctuation in the prices of essential drugs since the announcement of the New Drug policy in September, 1994;

(b) whether it is a fact that the actual number of price controlled drugs is less then the number of drugs proposed to be under price control;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the entire range of life saving drugs has been or proposed to be kept out of price control; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor stating its likely impact on the consumers particularly on the weaker sections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) A simplified and transparent criteria based on the market

turnover and competition as stated in the 'Modifications in the Drug Policy, 1986' announced in September, 1994 has been adopted for inclusion of bulk drugs in the price controlled category. Accordingly, some drugs which were under price control in DPCO, 1987 have been decontrolled and at the same time some other drugs which were outside the purview of price control under the DPCO, 1987 have come under price control in DPCO, 1995 which was notified on 6.1.1995. During the five months period of September, 1994 to February, 1995 the increase for wholesale prices (1981-82 base) shows an increase of 0.4 percent for the price of drugs and medicines against an increase of 4.0 percent for all commodities.

M/s. The Southern Pesticides Cooperation Ltd

1734. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd., Kovvur; Andhra Pradesh is in the process of becoming sick due to lack of orders;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to keep the factory viable; and

(c) what action is being taken to diversify production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The M|s. Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd. has been declared a sick company on 15.9. 1994 by the Board for Industrial and Financial Re-constructions in term of Section 3(1)(0) of sick Industrial Companies (Spl. Provisions) Act, 1985. The BIFR has appointed IDBI as its Operating Agency for determining measures for revival of the company.

Consequences of shortages of natural gas supply

1735. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased state:

(a) whether a shortage of natural gas supplies to the fertilizer sector will necessitate a hike in fertilizer prices;

(b) if so, to what extent will fertilizer prices increase due to a shift in feedstock from natural gas to other raw materials; and

(c) the steps proposed to supply fertilizer at reasonable prices to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Any change in the use of feedstock due to shortage of natural gas or otherwise will not have any direct impact on the sale price of controlled fertilizers.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (a) & (b) above.

Most Required Variety of Fertilisers

1736. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) which is the most required variety of fertiliser in the country;

(b) what quantum of subsidy is provided on it; and

(c) the details of its import alongwith indigenous production during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Urea accounts for about 59 per cent of the total fertiliser consumption in the country in terms of nutrients.